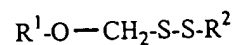


COMPOUNDS FOR PROTECTING HYDROXYLS  
AND METHODS FOR THEIR USE

Abstract of the Disclosure

A hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified compound of the Formula:



or a salt thereof wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an organic molecule and R<sup>2</sup> is a hydrocarbyl is useful for protecting and/or blocking hydroxyl groups in organic molecules such as nucleotides. The hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified compounds can also be used for chemically synthesizing oligonucleotides and for sequencing nucleic acid compounds.

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